

Landowner _____



WHAT IS WOODY RESIDUE TREATMENT?

The treatment of residual woody material that is created due to management activities or natural disturbances.

PURPOSE

Woody Residue Treatment is used to:

- Reduce hazardous fuels
- Reduce risk of harmful insects and disease
- Protect/maintain air quality by reducing the risk of wildfire
- Improve access for management purposes
- Improve access to forage for livestock and wildlife
- Develop renewable energy systems
- Enhance aesthetics
- Reduce the risk of harm to humans and livestock
- Improve soil organic matter
- Improve the site for natural or artificial regeneration.

WHERE THE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on all land, except active cropland, where woody residue requires treatment.

WHERE TO GET HELP

For assistance with this practice, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service or your local Conservation District office.

APPLYING THE PRACTICE

The landowner's objectives will be achieved while adequately protecting land and water resources.

The condition and extent of residual woody material shall determine the treatment method selected. The treatment of woody residue includes the following methods or combinations of methods:

Piling and Burning – Piling is placing, laying, heaping or stacking of woody residue into piles to facilitate intended burning. Burning is igniting piled woody residue under prescribed conditions to reduce the amount and continuity of fuels. Build small piles and place them on existing roads, disturbed areas, in natural openings and away from trees to avoid heat damage to residual trees, their roots and underlying soil. Piling often is by hand on steeper slopes and other areas inaccessible to heavy equipment. When machine piling or windrowing, a “brush rake” (blade

with tines) will minimize pushing surface soil into the pile. Piles will be burned when they are dry (usually 6 months after being cut) and at a time when it can be conducted in a safe manner. All burning will comply with a Prescribed Burning Plan and will meet local and state burning regulations. This method is suited to areas with adequate spacing between residual trees or areas with few or no residual trees.

Chipping – This method includes the mechanical conversion of slash to wood chips and chunks of varying sizes to distribute on site or utilize offsite as mulch, woody biomass fuel or pulp for paper products. Machinery shall be operated to minimize bark damage to residual trees. Chip piles will not exceed 4-5 feet in height, except when stockpiling on a landing. A large decaying chip pile may spontaneously combust, starting a fire. Chipped material shall be spread out to a fine layer (less than 2 inches in depth) in close contact with the soil.

Lopping and Scattering – Lopping is the cutting of limbs, branches, treetops, small diameter trees, or other woody plant residue to within 2 feet of the ground. Scattering is the spreading of lopped woody residue evenly over the ground so that the remaining woody residue will lie close to the ground. Over time, the lopped woody residue will compress. This method is suited to areas with lower woody residue accumulations and to reduce “ladder fuels”.

Removal – Woody residue is lifted or pushed, and taken away from a treated area in order to utilize the material, or dispose of it safely. Minimize soil damage/loss by using a brush rake, if pushing woody debris into piles. This method is suited to small areas with higher woody residue accumulations where other methods may not sufficiently reduce undesired material.



A roller chopper uses a crushing technique to reduce height of woody residue and place material in contact with the soil.

Crushing – This method involves the use of heavy ground-based equipment that crushes/grinds woody residue to a depth not exceeding 18 inches above ground. The closer crushed material is to the forest floor, the quicker decomposition occurs. This method commonly occurs when harvest or thinning equipment drives over woody slash created during the operation.

Broadcast Burning – This method consumes and alters woody residue by prescribed fire to a point of minimizing the risk of wildfire and is suited primarily to areas with few to no residual trees. Scatter woody residue away from leave trees in order to protect them during prescribed fire. If large amounts of woody residue remain, burn during cooler, wetter periods when the slash is damp. All burning will comply with a Prescribed Burning Plan and will meet local and state burning regulations.

When determining method and timing of woody residue treatment, consider air quality regulations, burning requirements, available resources, ability to utilize the woody biomass and regeneration needs.

MAINTAINING THE PRACTICE

Monitor populations and the potential of damage to site resources by harmful pests and take controlling actions as necessary.

Access by vehicles or people will be controlled during treatment for safety.

Monitor vegetation growth. Unwanted vegetation or excessive re-growth may occur, requiring treatment.



Piling and burning is a common method to treat excessive woody residue.

Woody Residue Treatment – Job Sheet

Landowner _____ Field number _____ Designed by _____ Date _____

Purpose: (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce hazardous fuels	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce risk of harmful insects and disease
<input type="checkbox"/> Protect air quality by reducing risk of wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve access for management purposes
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve access to forage for livestock & wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop renewable energy systems
<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce risk of harm to humans & livestock
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve soil organic matter	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve site for natural or artificial regeneration

Method: (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Piling & Burning	<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping	<input type="checkbox"/> Lopping and Scattering	<input type="checkbox"/> Removal
<input type="checkbox"/> Crushing	<input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast burning	<input type="checkbox"/> Other_____	

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